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SUBJECT: JORDAN'S JUNE 17 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS: TIMELINE AND PROCEDURAL RULES FOR CANDIDATES

¶1. (U) Jordan is scheduled to hold parliamentary elections on June 17. This cable provides basic information regarding the legal requirements candidates must fulfill in the run-up to the election, as well as a timeline of when specific actions must occur prior to the sitting of the new Parliament.

INITIAL CANDIDACY PROCEDURES

¶2. (U) Individuals wishing to compete in the June 17 elections are required to provide their candidacy applications to the Head of the Central Committee for the governorate in which they choose to run with a statement affirming the following during a three day (May 18-20) registration period.

Candidates must:

- a. be at least 30 years old and a Jordanian national for at least 10 years,
- b. not have bankruptcy convictions or sentences of over one year for non-political crimes,
- c. not belong to any "non-Jordanian" political parties or organizations,
- d. pay a 500 Jordanian dinars (700 USD) fee.

LIMITS ON CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

¶4. (U) Once the campaign has officially begun on May 18 (30 days prior to voting) candidates must comply with the following rules:

- a. electoral meetings and campaign speeches are prohibited in places of worship, universities, private and public schools, public streets and government buildings.
- b. Speeches, publications and political advertisements may not include material slandering any candidates, or agitation of sectarian, tribal or regional bias against any groups of citizens.
- c. Government employees are prohibited from engaging in any election publicity at their work sites.
- d. Candidates may not present gifts, monetary contributions, or in-kind assistance to any voters or election officials.

ELECTION DAY: SUPERVISION AND PROCEDURES

¶5. (U) The Minister of the Interior will form committees that will administer voting and vote counting. Voting begins at 7 a.m. on June 17th and ends at 7:00 p.m. that same evening. Candidates or assigned delegates are allowed to observe end of day vote counting procedures. Assigned committees at each voting center must open the ballot boxes in front of those official candidate representatives present at each center and count ballots. Results will then be sent to the District Electoral committee.

¶6. (U) Supervising the elections process will be a committee composed of the Minister of the Interior, Secretary General of the Ministry of the Interior, Head of the Passport department, a "high caliber" judge to be named by the President of the Judicial Council, and the head of the Elections department.

CERTIFICATION OF RESULTS

¶7. (U) Per the Elections Law, election results must be announced by the Minister of the Interior no later than 48 hours after receiving the voting records from the voting centers.

CONVENING THE NEW PARLIAMENT

18. (U) Per the Jordanian Constitution, the King, in consultation with the PM, will likely set a date soon after the elections for convening an extraordinary session of the new Parliament which will sit until September 30. October 1st, per the Constitution, is designated as the first day for the ordinary session of the lower house of the Jordanian parliament.

BERRY